

namely supply of electricity and water, construction of roads & drainages in the unauthorised colonies, in terms of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in this respect.

Permanent membership in UNSC

***33. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is serious about becoming a permanent member in UN Security Council;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the aspiration to become permanent member in Security Council does not go well with securing UN Secretary-General's post;
- (c) if so, the reasons for fielding Mr. Shashi Tharoor for Secretary-General's post;
- (d) the extent of India's seriousness about Tharoor's candidature and the steps taken in mobilizing international support; and
- (e) the reasons therefor and the resultant diplomatic fiasco?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India is a serious proponent of comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, both its expansion in permanent and non-permanent categories as well as the improvement of its working methods. India believes that it is, by any yardstick, qualified to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council and that in any future expansion, its credentials will be recognized by fellow members of the United Nations.

(b) The expansion of the UN Security Council is part of a process of UN reform which has been ongoing for some years. The selection of a new Secretary General, on the other hand, was a shorter and time-bound process which has to conclude before December 31, 2006. The Government viewed these two processes as mutually exclusive.

(c) to (e) Shri Shashi Tharoor was endorsed as a candidate for the post of UN Secretary General in view of India's strong support to the principle of regional rotation and his credentials as an outstanding international civil servant and an acclaimed thinker and writer. He is an eminent Indian and

an outstanding Asian. His performance in each straw poll by the UN Security Council, ranking no lower than second, closely behind Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade of the Republic of Korea, demonstrated the strength of his candidature. The Government decided to voluntarily withdraw his candidature in consideration of its consistent view that the next Secretary General should be an Asian with the widest possible acceptability and to help generate a consensus on the selection of an Asian.

Talks on joint anti-terror mechanism

***34. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Prime Minister and Pakistan's President met in Havana and reached an agreement to have a joint anti-terror mechanism and resumption of their secretary-level talks which were on hold after the Mumbai blasts in July;
- (b) if so, whether modalities for joint anti-terror mechanism have been worked out;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether secretary-level talks have also been resumed; and
- (e) if so, the outcome of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Prime Minister of India and President Musharraf met in Havana on 17 September 2006 in the margins of the NAM Summit. They strongly condemned all acts of terrorism and agreed that terrorism is scourge that needs to be effectively dealt with. They decided to put in place an India-Pakistan anti-terrorism institutional mechanism. They also directed their Foreign Secretaries to resume the Composite Dialogue. In pursuance of this directive, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi on 14-15 November 2006. They agreed to set up a 3-member anti-terror mechanism. The anti-terror mechanism will be headed by Additional Secretary (International Organisations) of the Ministry of